An Introduction to Modern Greek: Syllabus

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Konstantinos Varvarezos
Email: kkv1@rice.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of speaking, reading, and writing Modern Greek. In the beginning, students will learn the Greek alphabet and the sounds that each letter makes. They will also learn basic greetings and simple expressions for everyday speech. Students will then be introduced to useful vocabulary for various situations, such as family, home, at a restaurant, shopping, at the beach, etc. In the meantime, they will be learning the grammatical aspects of Greek, including how to use nouns, verbs, and adjectives as well as their declension and conjugation. Students will learn how to make sentences and what kinds of expressions are typical in conversation, as well as practice speaking in pairs and in groups.

As a result of this course, students will know how to pronounce words in Greek as well as understand the meaning of basic word and phrases, especially regarding greetings and activities. Furthermore, students will be able to apply their knowledge to form sentences to describe themselves, to effectively communicate in typical situations such as at a home or restaurant, and to ask questions in Greek should they need directions, help, or simply in conversation.

Since it is a language class, students will be evaluated on their speaking skills, so there will be in-class speaking exercises to test pronunciation, knowledge, and reading. There will be homework assignments designed to help practice writing; these will not be taken for a grade, but students will often be asked to present what they wrote during the next class meeting, which will count towards participation.

Quizzes: There will be a quiz about every two weeks. These quizzes will be take-home fill-in-the-blank, designed to test vocabulary and grammar as well as writing skill. These quizzes will be closed-notes and must be done without consulting online sources or other students. The quizzes are subject to the honor code.

Skit: At the end of the semester, students will participate in a group skit. The group will have to prepare a 5-10 minute skit, using vocabulary learned during the semester. The skits should involve conversations focusing on the various themes covered during the semester. They will be presented on the last day of class.

Grade Policies

30% - Quizzes (6 total, 5% each)
30% - Participation/ In-class speaking
40% - Final skit

Absence Policies

Students are expected to actively participate in the class. Since this is a language course, a significant part of the grade will be determined by participation and in-class speaking exercises.

MATERIALS

Authors: Dimitra Dimitra, Marineta Papachimona
Title: *Ελληνικά Τώρα 1+1 (ELLINIKA TORA - GREEK NOW 1+1)*
Publisher: Nostos
5th Revised Edition, 2002

Students are not required to acquire the book. Rather, handouts from the book will be posted on Owlspace for reference and extra practice.

RICE HONOR CODE

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. Students unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered should consult the Honor System Handbook at http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.
Students should consult the instructor for clarification should they have questions concerning the honor code and how it relates to a particular assignment.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the necessary accommodations; and 2) talk with me (the instructor) to discuss their accommodation needs.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Note that this syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

SCHEDULE

Week 1:
The alphabet, sounds, and greetings.
Assignment: Think of phrases you think would be useful to know.

Week 2:
Pronouns, the verb "to be", basic words and phrases
Assignment: Quiz 1

Weeks 3&4:
People, family members, numbers, regular verbs, articles, questions, describing oneself, time
Assignments: Declension/Conjugation practice; Quiz 2 (due wk. 5)

Weeks 5&6:
Home, living, neighborhood, school, past tense
Assignments: Think of 5 sentences in Greek; Quiz 3 (due wk. 7)

Weeks 7&8:
Food, at a restaurant, eating, drinking
Assignments: Think of 5 sentences in Greek, think of names of foods you'd like to know; Quiz 4 (due wk. 7)

Weeks 9&10:

Shopping, buying, at a market/supermarket, the aorist

Assignments: Conjugation practice, sentence-writing practice; Quiz 5 (due wk. 11)

Weeks 11&12:

At the beach, recreation, hobbies, etc.

Assignments: Sentence-writing practice; Quiz 6 (due wk. 13)

Week 13:

The subjunctive, future, or other useful expressions. Review.

Assignments: Sentence-writing practice

Week 14:

Preparation for skit

Week 15:

Skit presentations